

CALIFORNIA LEGACY PROJECT SPOTLIGHT ON CONSERVATION

BAY AREA WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP IN OAKLAND OCTOBER 16 – 17, 2002

INTERIM REPORT MAY 2003



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Spotlight on Conservation workshop series is based on the premise that the best way to develop a statewide conservation strategy is to engage with the varied communities throughout our state to understand the unique natural and working landscapes in each bioregion. The California Legacy Project is holding nine bioregional workshops across the State in 2002 – 2003. This will provide a better understanding of the resources highly valued in the region and the strategies for conservation investment that best fit each region.

The Bay Area *Spotlight on Conservation* workshop, held in Oakland on October 16 – 17, 2002, was the fourth in the series of nine bioregional workshops.

As shown on the maps below, this region included portions of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma counties, as well as the City of San Francisco¹.

The contents of this report cover:

- Legacy goals, workshop results, and follow-up actions
- 2. A general summary of workshop highlights and events
- 3. Detailed transcriptions, maps, and preliminary analysis resulting from the workshop.

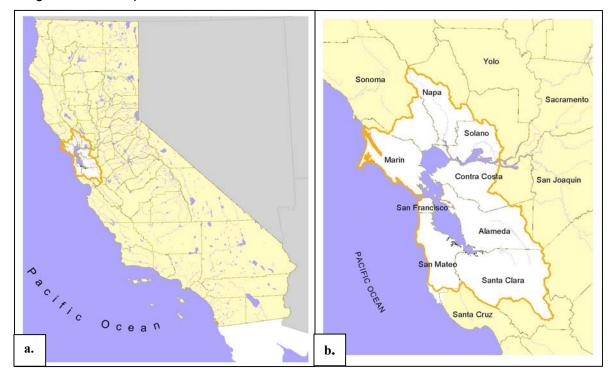


Figure 1a. California's Bay Area bioregion in the context of the entire state; 1b. Detail of the Bay Area bioregion.

^{1.} It should be noted that there are different ways to define the boundary of the Bay Area. The Legacy Project's delineation (which is based on watershed boundaries) differs from the delineation used by the Bay Area Open Space Council (which is based on county lines and includes the entirety of the nine Bay Area counties).

The workshops were designed to accomplish the following goals:

- 1. Put a spotlight on land and water conservation throughout the state;
- 2. Introduce the Legacy Project to regional conservation stakeholders;
- 3. Elicit information about existing regional conservation plans and priorities; monitoring, management and stewardship projects; and available data sets and:
- 4. Gain a sense of the participant's high priorities for conservation including the criteria they might use for investing in conservation of various resources, and the strategies they believe most applicable to their region and interests.

GOALS, RESULTS, AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

In support of these goals, results and followup actions are summarized below:

- 1. Spotlight conservation: A diverse group of people who work on and are affected by conservation had the opportunity to hear each other's views and to interact. People from different parts of the region had an opportunity to share information and think about the region and the State as a whole. To follow-up, participants can add themselves to the email list for Legacy's on-line newsletter, The Watering Hole [http://legacy.ca.gov/subscribe.epl]. Also, the Legacy Project staff distributed a participant contact list and will distribute workshop results to participants for review prior to publication.
- 2. Introduce the Legacy Project: Participants had the opportunity to ask substantial and challenging questions about the Legacy Project. They appreciated the interest expressed regarding their views about State conservation investment strategies. Resource Agency departments were also able to highlight their valuable work in the

region at display booths and in workshop sessions.

- 3. *Elicit information:* Participants viewed maps of statewide and regional datasets (e.g. land cover types, publicly owned conservation lands, etc.) for a broad view of resources. Legacy staff received contacts for important local datasets and access to data sharing. Participants identified local monitoring, restoration, and stewardship projects, and conservation planning efforts. Legacy Project staff gained a better sense of places in the region that are high conservation priorities. For follow up, regional maps presented at the workshops and additional information received will be evaluated for inclusion in the web-based California Digital Conservation Atlas [http://legacy.ca.gov/new atlas.epl]. Sharing this information with state agencies will enable them to consider existing local and regional plans and recommended regional priorities when determining statewide priorities for investment.
- 4. Gain a sense of conservation criteria:
 Participants generated a list of criteria (and ranked them) for Terrestrial Biodiversity,
 Aquatic Biodiversity, Working Landscapes,
 Rural Recreation Lands, and Urban Open
 Space. These criteria will help guide the
 Legacy Project to develop data and analysis
 tools for public use. The criteria will also be
 compared with results from other regional
 workshops and presented to agencies and
 organizations that make conservation funding
 decisions.

Gain insight on conservation investment tools: In break-out groups, participants were asked to identify regional conservation strategies. For follow-up, Legacy staff will review differences in sub-regional and region-to – region strategies and will attempt to determine how these differences can be taken into account in developing conservation investment strategies at the state level.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

One of the key components of the workshop is an "Information Exchange" gallery where participants share their knowledge of the area's conservation efforts and their opinions as to what areas should be considered regional and statewide conservation priorities. It is set up as an open house of interactive stations focused on specific conservation-related questions. Here are the results of the six stations.

1. Data available and data needs:
Participants viewed Legacy's existing regional and statewide maps depicting natural resources datasets, and land ownership and land use boundaries. Twelve datasets previously unrecorded by the Legacy Project were brought to our attention. One area on our maps was marked as being in need of correction. Data available will help inform the regional and local database survey and will be added to California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES) [http://ceres.ca.gov].

Existing and emerging conservation planning effort: Of the 23 on-going conservation efforts identified, about half addressed more than one type of resource. Approximately 65% addressed Aquatic Biodiversity, with a number of plans focused on restoration in the Bay Delta or San Francisco Bay wetlands. About 43% of plans addressed Terrestrial Biodiversity, with many of these being riparian habitat or watershed-scale projects having benefits to both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity. Fewer plans dealt with Rural Recreation, Working Lands, or Urban Open Space. This input will be complied into regional maps of existing and emerging conservation plans and areas of conservation interest. These maps will be evaluated before possible inclusion in the web-based Conservation Atlas.

Private land stewardship: Six stewardship projects were identified. Three of these are in the Napa River watershed. Preservation of

agricultural and vineyard lands was a common goal.

Regional conservation priorities: Of the 58 locations identified, the Napa River watershed garnered the greatest attention (receiving more dots than any other location). Additional notable areas included the Sonoma Mountains, Mount Hamilton, and the Springtown/ Livermore/ Altamont area in Alameda County. Many of the designated priorities centered on wildlife corridors, habitat for rare and sensitive species, and wetland preservation.

Statewide conservation priorities: The majority of locations identified as statewide priorities were within the Bay Area, indicating that participants believe conservation priorities in their region are among the most pressing in the state. Chosen locations were distributed throughout the Bay region, without concentrated focus on particular sites. On a statewide basis, preservation of agriculture and protection of large intact landscapes, wildlife corridors, riparian areas, and water quality were repeatedly cited as important concerns.

Natural Resource Project Inventory (NRPI) [http://www.ca.blm.gov/caso/nrpi.html]: The station updated information on six projects in the region, which included resource assessment, restoration and monitoring efforts.

In summary, through the *Spotlight on Conservation* Workshop series, the California Legacy Project is trying to combine input from state departments, boards and conservancies as well as local government and private stakeholders in developing a statewide conservation investment strategy. This workshop has specifically allowed the Resources Agency to learn about important local and regional values, data, plans, and priorities in the Bay Area.

I. INTRODUCTION

This Interim Report is a summary of the California Legacy Project Spotlight on Conservation workshop held in Oakland for the San Francisco Bay Area bioregion. This workshop was the fourth in a series of nine workshops to be held throughout the State in 2002-2003. Participating counties included Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma, and the City of San Francisco. The Interim Report is a record of the workshop results and provides some preliminary analysis.

"The California Legacy Project will assist everyone who knows the land and is working to save it. We're making an unprecedented effort to reach out to those who care about the future of California's natural resources. I invite you to get involved in this exciting effort to work with us on the state-of-the-art tools and conservation strategies that will help protect and restore California's natural resources and working landscapes."

-Mary D. Nichols Secretary for Resources

In an effort to develop California's first—ever statewide resources conservation strategy. the California Legacy Project is working with Resources Agency state departments, boards, commissions and conservancies, CALEPA departments, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and federal and nonprofit conservation partners. The Project seeks the input of stakeholders affected by conservation investment, as well as of advocates for conservation investment. The Legacy Project will create analytical tools that can help state and federal agencies; local and regional governments; and public and private groups assess resource values and risks, and conservation opportunities for large landscape areas in each of the state's major bioregions. Such evaluations guide decision-makers to more effective and strategic allocations of funds.

The California Legacy Project includes a wide range of perspectives and incorporates agency and public participation at all levels of its work. It builds on existing data and conservation efforts, facilitating partnerships in data improvement and conservation actions. Working together with a host of partners, the Project helps to ensure a legacy of natural resources and working landscapes for California's future.

II. SESSION RESULTS

OVERVIEW OF SPOTLIGHT ON CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS

Over 90 people attended the Bay Area workshop. All workshop invitees are recommended to Legacy staff as being knowledgeable about and interested in regional conservation and natural resource issues. In extending invitations, we attempt to be thorough and to include a broad spectrum of viewpoints and expertise, but we recognize that our participant groups ultimately represent a relatively small, self-

selected, focus group. Thus, we recognize that the recorded responses are not representative of the public, or even of natural resources professionals as a whole.

The workshops are designed for one and a half days and have two distinct, but equally important, components: (1) a series of facilitated discussions in large and small groups, and (2) an "Information Exchange,"

set up in an open house format, where participants view and react to an extensive gallery of maps and data and provide Legacy with information on conservation-related questions.

Day One begins with a welcome, a presentation about the Legacy Project, and a presentation about current, large-scale, planning efforts in the region that is intended to set the context for follow-up conversations. Participants then discuss regional conservation issues in a facilitated large group session. Day One ends with a two-hour opportunity to engage in the "Information Exchange" and provide detailed input.

Day Two begins with small break-out groups discussing the type of criteria they would use in deciding how to invest in

conservation of five resource types (Terrestrial Biodiversity, Aquatic Biodiversity, Working Lands, Rural Recreation, and Urban Open Space). Once the small groups identify criteria, the large group then ranks each one from the most important to least. In the afternoon, following a brief presentation on Legacy's California Digital Conservation Atlas, participants convene in small groups for discussions of strategies that are applicable to resource conservation in their region. Participants then return to large group for reports back on the results of the small group sessions and a summary presentation highlighting results of the workshop. Finally, the workshops end with a closing address by an official from the Resource Agency. For a detailed Workshop Agenda see Appendix A.

WORKSHOP OPENING

To open the workshop, Coastal Conservancy Executive Officer Sam Schuchat welcomed participants and acknowledged the tremendous amount of effort that has already gone into conservation planning and data development in the Bay Area. Schuchat noted the effort being made by the Legacy project to reach out to landowners, conservation organizations, business interests, and federal, state, and local government agencies. He also commended the Legacy Project's scope, such as the project's broad definition of conservation. including not only biodiversity, but also urban open space and rural recreation opportunities, and also the broad range of conservation tools the project supports, including not only acquisition, but also private land stewardship and restoration. In particular, he acknowledged the importance of stewardship incentive programs and recognized the value of working lands not only as habitat and open space, but also as they support regional heritage and economy.

Schuchat informed participants that over the past two years Propositions 12 and 40

provided the Coastal Conservancy with \$65 million for the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program. He noted that the programs of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture and the Bay Area Open Space Council enabled the Coastal Conservancy to quickly target the use of this money. He observed that successful coordination of conservation efforts in the Bay Area has been accomplished largely because of the work of these two organizations and explained that The Legacy Project is attempting accomplish this sort of coordination work for all of California.



PRESENTATION: DEVELOPING A REGIONAL PLAN FROM THE GROUND-UP, BY JOHN WOODBURY, DIRECTOR, BAY AREA OPEN SPACE COUNCIL

John Woodbury provided the following information about regional conservation: The present state of regional protection is a blend of fee and easement protection, totaling 1,018,000 acres, with an average of 45,000 acres added/year for the past five years. Patterns of conservation tend to center around population centers. Easements are playing an increasing role, having constituted 5% of the protected landscape 10 years ago and 13% presently. There are 170 public agencies and nonprofit organizations currently involved in regional conservation work. Threats include resources extraction, subdivisions, commercial development, rural estate development, and competing demands on limited resources (such as water needs of agriculture, the public, and aquatic species).

The Bay Area Open Space Council formed in 1993 as a response to these threats. The Council reviewed all documented local plans, from the work of public agencies to land trusts, and consolidated them on a single map. Broad-brush analysis of the plans assisted with the design of the Bay Area Conservancy Program, administered by the Coastal Conservancy. These first planning studies were supplemented with additional research and produced a regional planning document (which continues to be updated). Two maps that have resulted from this process show high priority areas for the Bay Area Conservancy Program for: open space, habitat, and recreation; and for agricultural preservation (see Appendix B).

A number of studies and planning documents also guide conservation work in the Bay Area. For example, the Habitat Goals report outlines goals for wetland protection in submerged, tidal, and adjacent uplands and was adopted as the scientific basis for the strategies of The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture.

Four major lessons can be drawn from the Bay Area Open Space Council's work:

- 1. There is a need for long-term stewardship capacity: After protecting resources, an equally important challenge is how to steward those resources.
- 2. Partnerships are critical for success: Setting and revising priorities with partners results in a diversified portfolio of protected assets. Regional funding is key to effective partnerships.
- 3. Focus on larger landscapes: The ecologically unique and diverse Diablo Ridgelands demonstrates both the importance of partnerships and the expansion of vision that is needed. Plans for Mount Diablo have progressed from protecting the summit, to the uplift, and finally to protecting connectivity to the Diablo Range. The Open Space Council worked with about two dozen partner agencies to gather ecological data on the area, which led to the conclusions that connectivity should be a major priority, and that ranchers (the primary land steward in this region for the past 200 years) also needed to be supported.
- 4. Conservation is largely about providing places for people to experience the outdoors. This is exemplified by the Bay Area Trail systems, including the Ridge Trail, the Coastal Trail, the network of trails linking these trail systems, and public transit system paralleling this trail system.

In conclusion, Woodbury described a collective regional vision evolving in Bay Area, which includes diverse habitats, diverse communities, and goals which he characterized as being inclusive, reflecting local values, and ambitious but realistic (aspiring to protect 1 million more acres, achievable in 20 years at the current rate of protection).

REGIONAL CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

As part of the first day of the workshop, participants were challenged with identifying some of the most pressing issues for conservation in the Bay Area, including unique regional opportunities and challenges.

Participants detailed a host of regional challenges including: population growth; addressing housing shortages and lack of affordable housing while maintaining open space; low farm commodity prices; and conversion of farmland to intensive irrigated agriculture. Opportunities to improve upon these conditions were also presented, including: habitat conservation on agricultural lands, opportunities for wetlands conservation, landscape scale planning and active open space districts and land trusts.

The lists of the opportunities and challenges identified by the participants at the Bay Area Workshop follow. These are not intended to be exhaustive lists of possible opportunities and constraints; rather these lists document the projects and ideas that were foremost in participants' minds at the start of the workshop.



Within the group discussion, participants also came up with categories to describe some of the challenges they identified. The categories are listed below, along with abbreviations in parentheses:

Research Gaps (RG)
Funding/ Financial (F)
Usage Shifts (US)
Biological Issues (B)
Relationships (R)
Educational gaps (ED)
Organizational & Political (OP)
Planning and Land Use (PLU)
Agriculture (AG)
Transportation (T)

OPPORTUNITIES

Biological Issues (BI)

- 1. Diverse population expansion effort
- 2. Easements with public use component
- Regional Environmental Impact Report (EIR) templates
- 4. Land acquisition through military base closures
- 5. Landscape-scale planning
- 6. Broaden constituency
- 7. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for public information/ opportunities
- 8. Programs based on cost avoidance
- 9. Open space districts
- 10. Political opportunities
- 11. Monies are still available
- 12. Environmental Protection Agency grants
- 13. Public transportation improved
- 14. Improve livability of cities
- 15. Strong urban creek movement
- 16. Water recycling
- 17. Wetlands conservation
- 18. Large tracts of habitat to protect
- 19. Habitat conservation on agricultural lands
- 20. Farmers and ranchers as environmental managers
- 21. Partnering
- 22. Stakeholder partnerships
- 23. Partner with universities (research)
- 24. Streamline regulatory process
- 25. Education

CHALLENGES, RISKS, THREATS

- 1. Population growth (PLU)
- 2. Poor land-use planning (PLU)
- 3. Lack of diversity at the table (PLU)
- Housing shortage, lack of affordable housing, lack of "smart growth" (PLU)
- 5. Development of large lot subdivisions (PLU)
- 6. Poor planning (PLU)
- 7. Incentives to fill bay (PLU)
- Lack of group management on existing public lands (PLU)
- 9. Public acquisition does not mean protection (PLU)
- 10. Certificates of compliance -allowing legal lots in areas without adequate existing services (PLU)
- 11. Location of high speed rail (T)
- 12. Land use/ transportation planning disconnect (T)
- 13. Increasing water consumption (US)
- 14. Conversion of dryland farming to intensive irrigated agriculture. "grapes" (US)
- 15. Agricultural/ urban interface (AG)
- Farmers & ranchers sometimes aren't good land managers (AG)
- 17. Loss of infrastructure for farmers (AG)
- 18. Contaminants; gold rush spoils (B)
- 19. Water pollution (B)
- 20. Air quality degradation (B)
- 21. Invasive species (B)
- 22. Habitat fragmentation (B)
- 23. Loss of migration corridor (B)
- 24. Global warming (B)
- 25. Sudden oak death (B)
- 26. Fire hazards- need to restore natural fire regime for ecosystem health (B)
- 27. Loss of biodiversity as a result of timber harvest (B)
- 28. Badly done HCPS (B)
- 29. Weak science (RG)
- 30. Gaps in species range & abundance information (RG)
- 31. Lack of political will for decision-makers, no visionary Leadership (OP)
- 32. Upgrading infrastructure (OP)
- 33. Agency downsizing, lack of expertise (OP)
- 34. Management agency getting thin (OP)
- 35. Politics (OP)
- 36. Overlap of regulation (OP)
- 37. Agencies with different agendas (OP)
- 38. Low farm commodity prices (F)
- 39. Lack of consistent funding for agriculture (F)
- 40. Economic downturn (F)
- 41. Cost of land (F)
- 42. Lack of funding for management (F)
- 43. Increased distrust of public sector (R)
- 44. Lack of understanding of farmers (R)
- 45. Extreme views on either side of conservation issues (R)
- 46. Bad urban schools (ED)
- 47. Lack of access to open space results in less educational values for kids (ED)

IDENTIFYING AND WEIGHTING REGIONAL CONSERVATION CRITERIA

On the morning of the second day, small breakout groups were formed and charged with the following task:

"Identify characteristics or elements (called criteria) of the resource that makes it desirable or valuable to conserve"

Or, participants could identify characteristics or elements that one might use to avoid investing in conservation (such as areas of high urban value).

Each group identified conservation criteria for one of five resource categories:
Terrestrial Biodiversity, Aquatic Biodiversity, Working Landscapes: Farmlands/ Grazing, Working Landscapes: Forestry, Urban Open Space, and Rural Recreation. Once the small group identified criteria, the large group ranked all of the criteria from highest to lowest priority. For a detailed explanation of the ranking process, please see Appendix C.

The tables that follow display the complete list of criteria (selected by the small breakout groups) for each resource topic, and their relative level of priority (as determined

by the full group). The associated graphs depict the frequency and distribution of scores. Although the graphs are small, ranking patterns can be seen, and it is possible to observe where there was general agreement or disagreement in ranking the criteria.

It is important to note that the goal of this exercise was to observe where there was agreement or disagreement about important criteria. The scores are not the result of a consensus process; rather, they reflect the range of opinions of the participants at the workshop.

These criteria will not be used as final recommendations for conservation investment purposes. Rather, in reviewing the Criteria session results, the Legacy Project hopes to observe general patterns, unique discussion outcomes, and commonalities between and among regions. The criteria that are widely agreed upon by participants will guide the Legacy Project in developing data, maps, and analysis tools for public use. This information will also be combined with results from other regional workshops and provided to conservation decision makers for their consideration.

DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF CRITERIA WEIGHTING

Table 1a. Criteria for Terrestrial Biodiversity conservation

Objective: Terrestrial Biodiversity	0/ 5			I -
Criteria	% of max.	RELATIVE PRIORITY	Mean	Frequency of scores High ←→ Low
Sufficient area for natural processes (including evolution of species) and species diversity (maximize unfragmented areas)	100%	HIGH	3.57	
Rare and endangered species (plants & animals)	93%	HIGH	4.87	
Representative natural communities (including plant communities)	93%	HIGH	4.89	
Connectivity: landscape linkages; key migratory species (manuals, birds, insects); trail linkages between parks	92%	HIGH	4.93	
Biodiversity hot-spots - species rich areas	92%	HIGH	5.03	
Habitat Intermix Zones (ecotones, areas of speciation)	78%	MED	7.51	
Strategic conservation of other lands to benefit target area - buffers, distant lands	78%	MED	7.61	
Capability of long term management; incentives for maintenance & restoration; opportunity/ feasibility of exotics control	75%	MED	8.16	
Sufficiency of water for biodiversity use; benefits to aquatic biodiversity	72%	MED	8.72	
Opportunities for achieving multiple objectives - including leveraging other dollars	71%	MED	8.82	

Objective: Terrestrial Biodiversity				
Existing landowner cooperation is already working in area; willing stewards, willing sellers	70%	MED	8.97	
Balance of Public Accessibility to Habitats (Research access; educational access; opportunity for public engagement, for building constituencies	65%	MED	9.87	
Ability to accommodate existing uses (infrastructure, facilities, military uses)	54%	LOW	11.93	
Financial - return on investment, land and management costs/feasibility; leverage	51%	LOW	12.39	
Amount of information known about the area	49%	LOW	12.72	

TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY

There was a relatively high level of agreement that the five of the criteria that received High priority ratings were important. These criteria were: 1. "Sufficient area for natural processes and species diversity (maximize un-fragmented areas)," 2. "Rare and endangered species," 3. "Representative natural communities," 4. "Connectivity: landscape linkages, key migratory species, trail linkages between parks," and 5. "Biodiversity hot-spots - species rich areas." One theme to emerge among these high priority criteria was consideration of biodiversity and habitat values to target and sensitive species. The first criterion notes the value of large areas for "species diversity;" the second criterion designates "rare and endangered species" as a consideration; the fourth criterion addresses the value of linkages for "migratory species"; and the fifth criterion notes the importance of "species-richness." Another theme addressed by two of the high priority criteria was consideration of large areas or entire communities. The highestranking criterion mentions "sufficient areas for natural processes" and "unfragmented areas," while the third criterion notes "natural communities" as a consideration. The commonality of these themes suggests that participants believed that in order to effectively accomplish conservation of terrestrial biodiversity, it is important to look at both particular species' habitat and also at larger landscape or ecosystem scale.

There was relatively strong agreement among participants in the assignment of middle-value scores to the criteria that received medium importance rankings. Finally, there was strong agreement that the three low ranking criteria were the least important. The low scores given to "Ability to accommodate existing uses" and the occurrence of "Balance of public accessibility to habitats" at the low-end of the medium scores indicate that, generally, participants did not feel that areas need to accommodate multiple uses or public access in order to warrant conservation investment; rather, biological and ecological values alone are enough to warranted investment. Also among the low scoring criteria was "Financial" considerations. This is interesting because financial considerations are more of a means to evaluate the feasibility of a project once a set of priority areas are already identified.

Table 1b. Criteria for Aquatic Biodiversity conservation

Objective: Aquatic Biodiversity				
Criteria	% of max.	RELATIVE PRIORITY	Mean	Frequency of scores High ←→ Low
Watershed functions; protection & richness of resource	100%	HIGH	2.61	
Existing high quality habitat	93%	HIGH	3.88	
Potential or presence of biodiversity connectivity, of uplands & riparian zone & tidal wetland	91%	HIGH	4.34	
Urgency & opportunities	85%	HIGH	5.42	
Water quality: meet standards, goals, needs	79%	MED	6.54	
Potential for restoration	76%	MED	7.07	
Water quantity: meet standards, goals, needs - amount and timing, hydrologic function	76%	MED	7.14	
Long-term projection of conservation viability (looking into the future)	75%	MED	7.22	
Opportunities for multiple uses, benefits, values	71%	MED	8.03	
Presence of partnerships	61%	LOW	9.81	

Objective: Aquatic Biodiversity Cont'd				_
Educational and research value	60%	LOW	10.10	
Feasibility; organizational capacity	58%	LOW	10.32	
Meets existing planning efforts (don't reinvent the wheel)	57%	LOW	10.58	
Historical use or cultural value	50%	LOW	11.93	

AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY

The criteria 1. "Watershed functions," 2. "Existing high quality habitat," 3. "Potential or presence of biodiversity connectivity," and 4. "Urgency and opportunities" all received high priority designations. Of these, there was an especially high level of agreement about the importance of the top three criteria. Both "Watershed functions" and "Potential or presence of biodiversity connectivity" encompass the notion of working and planning at a large scale. Participants' scores of the medium-ranking criteria were quite variable. Among the low-ranking criteria, there was strong agreement that "Meets existing planning efforts" and "Historical use or cultural value" were the least important. The low scores given to "Meets existing planning efforts" could indicate that participants didn't believe that existing planning efforts adequately address or cover threats to aquatic biodiversity. The consistently low scores given to "Historical use or cultural value" suggest that participants believe that ecological values outweigh cultural ones in determining investment priorities for aquatic biodiversity conservation.

Table 1c. Criteria for Working Landscapes (Farmlands/ Grazing) conservation

Objective: Working Landscapes - Farmlands/ Grazing				
Criteria	% of max.	RELATIVE PRIORITY	Mean	Frequency of scores High ←→ Low
Ability to protect or enhance other valuable resources: e.g. biodiversity, water quality, watersheds	100%	HIGH	2.78	
Agricultural viability: water, size & fragmentation, local infrastructure	95%	HIGH	3.55	
Sustainable conservation efforts; local leadership, conservation capacity, landowner trust	92%	HIGH	4.19	
Proximity to other protected or conserved land	90%	HIGH	4.41	
Level of development pressure	90%	HIGH	4.43	
Relationship to local land use policies	81%	MED	6.03	
Flexibility to adjust to changing markets	77%	MED	6.72	
Areas that can sustain family ownership	76%	MED	6.91	
Opportunities for voluntary agri-tourism, education or possible controlled public access	72%	LOW	7.59	
Would not make the area more vulnerable to "threats:" e.g. predation, invasives, vandalism	67%	LOW	8.38	

WORKING LANDSCAPES

The Working Landscapes resource category was divided into two separate discussion groups because both Farming/ Grazing and Forestry are important economic activities in the Bay Area. By generating two separate criteria lists, we hoped to capture important details pertinent to the conservation and sustainability of each.

Overall, however, there was a relatively low representation of landowners, foresters, ranchers and farmers at the workshop. The large group rankings may reflect this bias toward the interests most common in the meeting, resulting in consideration of ecological criteria over economic ones.

FARMLAND/ GRAZING

The criteria designated as high priority were: 1. "Agricultural viability: water, size & fragmentation, local infrastructure," 2. "Flexibility to adjust to changing markets," 3. "Relationship to local land use policies," 4. "Proximity to other protected or conserved land," and 5. "Sustainable conservation efforts; local leadership, conservation capacity, landowner trust." There was strong agreement that the top two ranking criteria were important. One of these top two criteria had an ecological focus ("Ability to protect or enhance valuable resources"), while the other had an economic focus ("Agricultural viability"). This indicates that participants believed that both of these areas should be taken into consideration in determining investment priorities. The other high-ranking criteria such as "proximity to other conserved land" or "level of development pressure" suggest that conservation investment should consider overall land use and development context rather than simply site features.

There was disagreement among participants about the importance of the criterion "Relationship to local land uses policies," with some participants ranking this criterion high and others ranking it low. This could reflect different attitudes about the adequacy of existing local policy. There was strong agreement that the two low-ranking criteria were relatively unimportant. The low rank of the criterion "Opportunities for voluntary agri-tourism, education or possible controlled public access" as contrasted with the high rank of "Agricultural viability" suggests that participants would like to see farm lands remain viable for working uses, rather than having to adopt multiple and public uses.

Table 1d. Criteria for Working Landscapes (Forestry) conservation

Objective: Working Landscapes- Forestry				
Criteria	% of max. score	RELATIVE PRIORITY	Mean	Frequency of scores High > Low
Habitat, linkages, not fragmented stands, high biodiversity, age classes	100%	HIGH	2.75	
Water Quality/ watershed function: e.g. large woody debris, soil stability/ erosion hazard	99%	HIGH	3.00	
Old growth forests	91%	HIGH	4.25	
Forest health: fire and fuels management, past management practices	86%	MED	5.20	
Threat of conversion: loss of working landscapes	81%	MED	6.03	
Potential for restoration	77%	MED	6.72	
Willing land owners and partnerships	77%	MED	6.80	
Recreational opportunities, multiple use, public access	72%	LOW	7.59	
Site class productivity	71%	LOW	7.74	
Viewsheds	70%	LOW	7.87	

FORESTRY

The criteria designated as high priority were: 1. "Habitat, linkages, not fragmented stands, high biodiversity, age classes," 2. "Water quality/ watershed function," and 3. "Old Growth Forests." There was strong agreement that the top two ranking criteria were important. Emphasis on these ecological characteristics may reflect the participants' belief that working landscapes should contribute multiple benefits (including ecological value) to merit conservation investment. There was also fairly strong agreement that "Size class productivity" was of low priority, which might reflect the limited representation by forestry interests at the workshop. (Additional, smaller-scale workshops targeting landowners and working land interests have been subsequently initiated.)

It is also noteworthy that "Threat of conversion," which received an overall medium ranking, showed a somewhat bipolar score distribution, with some participants feeling that is an important criterion to merit conservation investment and others ranking it as unimportant. This could reflect ambivalence of participants toward investment in places perceived to be so threatened that they may be beyond our capacity to protect them. On one hand, high threat levels can serve as a call to take action before it is too late; on the other hand, there may be hesitation to squander limited resources and energy on losing battles. The relatively low score of "Potential for restoration" as compared with the top ranking criteria focused on ecological integrity demonstrates that although a lot of discussion restoration work is underway in the Bay Area, participants place higher value on intact ecological systems.

Table 1e. Criteria for Urban Open Space conservation

Objective: Urban Open Space				
Criteria	% of max.	RELATIVE PRIORITY	Mean	Frequency of scores High ←→ Low
Habitat benefits (corridor connections; watershed level processes; native species supported; multiple ecotones; rarity of habitat; supports various stages of life cycle, e.g. nesting, foraging)	100%	HIGH	3.32	
Systems approach (creates or builds systems and connectivity for trails, streams, greenways, and habitat corridors)	98%	HIGH	3.65	
Areas of need (underserved communities with relatively few open spaces; look at population densities)	94%	HIGH	4.27	
Direct benefits for local residents (recreation, e.g. playgrounds, trails); access to shoreline; easily accessible; community gardens & urban agriculture; don't overlook small scale opportunities	94%	HIGH	4.32	
Ecological functions (air and water quality impacts; function for filtering pollutants)	87%	MED	5.45	
Existing open space opportunities (brownfields; publicly owned lands including utility easements; aging infrastructure; redevelopment areas; zoned open space areas)	84%	MED	6.02	
Restoration potential (remnant flood plains; stormwater retention and habitat value)	82%	MED	6.30	
Implementation & feasibility considerations; cost (look for good values); opportunities to partner	81%	MED	6.43	
Build awareness and political support (through environmental education)	80%	MED	6.60	
Strong economy (revenue and economic values; open space and facilities contributing to economic vitality)	68%	LOW	8.65	

URBAN OPEN SPACE

The criteria designated as high priority were: 1. "Habitat benefits (corridor connections; watershed level processes; native species supported; multiple ecotones; rarity of habitat; supports various stages of life cycle)," 2. "Systems approach (creates or builds systems and connectivity for trails, streams, greenways, and habitat corridors)," 3. "Areas of need (underserved communities with relatively few open spaces; look at population densities), and " 4. "Direct benefits for local residents, access to shoreline, easily accessible, community gardens & urban agriculture, don't overlook small scale opportunities." The highest-ranking criterion focused on habitat benefits to wildlife. This result indicates that participants believed that Urban Open Space can and should contribute multiple benefits both to people and wildlife in order to merit conservation investment. However, the other three criteria which received high priority rankings all focused on the needs of urban citizens and communities, suggesting that workshop participants felt that there is a tremendous need and potential to benefit urban communities through open space investment. There was low agreement about the importance of the criteria "Ecological functions" and "Existing open space opportunities," with substantial variability in participants' scores. Although many participants thought that preserving Urban Open Space is good for local economies, there was strong agreement that the criteria "Strong economy (revenue and economic values; open space and facilities contributing to economic vitality)" was of low importance in deciding where to invest in Urban Open Space. This indicates that participants believe that benefits such as educational value, quality of life, and environmental justice are more reasons than economic benefits for preserving Urban Open Space.

Table 1f. Criteria for Rural Recreation conservation

Objective: Rural Recreation				
Criteria	% of max.	RELATIVE PRIORITY	Mean	Frequency of scores High -> Low
Enhances or preserves regional biological diversity	100%	HIGH	3.66	
Connects existing areas and systems	100%	HIGH	3.69	
Has features that lend themselves to recreational uses	97%	HIGH	4.20	
High risk of conversion to urban or other land uses	95%	HIGH	4.47	
Sustainability in light of intended uses	93%	MED	4.78	
Contributes to statewide or regional multiple recreation use needs	89%	MED	5.41	
Accessibility to population centers	88%	MED	5.61	
Provides scenic viewshed	84%	LOW	6.37	
Presence of large predators (The feeling that the user could be eaten provides a wilderness experience, makes user feel a part of larger environment)	81%	LOW	6.80	

RURAL RECREATION

The criteria designated as high priority were: 1. "Enhances or preserves regional biological diversity," 2. "Connects existing areas and systems," 3. "Has features that lend themselves to recreational uses," and 4. "High risk of conversion to urban or other land uses." Ecological characteristics again figured among the highest-ranking criteria. There was strong agreement about the importance of the criterion "Enhances or preserves regional biodiversity value." The second highest ranking criterion ("Connects existing areas or systems") also showed strong agreement, and echoed the emphasis on connectivity that emerged repeatedly in the regional and statewide conservation priorities that participants suggested in the Data Exchange portion of the workshop. The two criteria "Has features that lend themselves to recreational uses" and "High risk of conversion" received overall high priority rankings, but participants' scores of these criteria were variable, with some people ranking them important and others ranking them unimportant. The differing opinions about the importance of "High risk of conversion" could again demonstrate ambivalence about the level of investment that should be placed in areas with potentially irreversible threats. There was strong agreement that "Presence of large predators" was not a necessary component of landscapes to merit conservation investment.

SMALL GROUP SESSION: REGIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

The task of the second small group session was to identify the participants' conservation priorities and then to discuss potential strategies for achieving those priorities.

Priorities were defined as areas or resources that are in need of conservation investment.

The purpose of identifying priorities was not to generate a complete list representing the group's highest regional priorities; rather, the priorities were used as examples to help focus the group's discussion of strategies.

Strategies are approaches to conserving natural resources that combine multiple tools and techniques and best utilize scare funds and resources.

Participants were divided into five small groups by subregion: Southern Counties (Santa Clara & San Mateo); North and East Counties (Solano, portions of Napa); Oakland and Inland (Contra Costa and Alameda); Northern Counties (Including Marin, Sonoma, and portions of Napa); and San Francisco City and Coast.

All of the groups independently recognized the following strategies:

- The need for conservation funding Four groups noted increased funding as either a strategy or a regional priority.

 The Southern Counties group specified the use of State bond money as a strategy.
- A combination of acquisition and easements were mentioned as important strategies.
- The critical role of working landscapes

 Three of the groups focused on keeping agriculture, grazing, and forestry economically viable. Two groups emphasized the value of farmland and riparian buffers as habitat. Strategies for supporting working lands included streamlining regulations, educating landowners about regulation (such as the Clean Water Act and Safe Harbor

agreements), expansion of the Williamson Act, and creation of improved conservation easements with increased incentives.

 Tax or monetary incentives to encourage conservation-oriented activities were cited as strategies.

Other strategies were identified by four out of five groups:

- Partnerships and collaboration Examples included partnerships between
 multiple agencies and private landowners,
 such as the Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural
 Area.
- Preservation of corridors, linkages, and connectivity The Southern Counties group emphasized linkages between different habitats, especially from the San Francisco Bay to the Ridgeline. The other groups focused on the importance of corridors for wildlife, notably for migration and gene flow. Private landowner involvement, acquisition, easements, and work with Coordinated Resource Management Plans or watershed groups were among the strategies listed to achieve connectivity goals.
- or development ordinances and promotion of smart growth Four groups noted these measures as important strategies. Two of these groups also discussed encouraging urban infill through tax incentives and one group mentioned enhancing the livability of urban areas as components of these strategies.
- Operations and management funding -Increased focus on operations and management was noted to be either an important strategy or a priority.

- Protection or restoration of San Francisco Bay wetland habitats were considered to be important priorities, with acquisition, incentives for protection, and legislation recommended as strategies to achieve these goals.
- Legislation and regulation were also repeatedly cited as strategies. Most of the group discussions also noted that there can be drawbacks to regulation, with two groups mentioning the need for streamlining of permitting processes and one group citing the need for regulatory relief for forestland management. Two groups mentioned Safe Harbor agreements as potentially useful tools.

Two of three out of the five groups recognized the following:

 Salmonid habitat and anadromous streams in the Bay Area were noted as priorities by three groups. Strategies

- noted to protect or enhance these resources included regulatory enforcement, fee and easement protection of land, identifying sediment sources, increased Total Maximum Daily Load standards, stream restoration, and removal of fish barriers. Additional actions and strategies that were discussed to address water resources were: ground and surface water management plans, adjudication of water rights, and coordination of watershed groups working at tribal, local, state, and federal levels.
- The importance of broadening and diversifying the conservation community was discussed by the two groups covering largely urban areas (Oakland and San Francisco).

Detailed results of the sub-regional groups follow:

1. PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES FOR SOUTHERN COUNTIES (SANTA CLARA & SAN MATEO)

Co	nservation Priorities	Strategies Addressing this Priority
1.	More diverse recreational opportunities across the region	Legislative action (by the State), networking and partnerships
2.	Conserving working forests	Regulatory "Relief" at State level – for non-industrial timber harvest; stop buying land & turning it into parks
3.	Protect Mt. Hamilton Range	Multi-agency partnerships, including Nature Conservancy conservation easements on rangelands
4.	Natural forest area in Santa Cruz Mountains linking big basin, Buto & Pescadero	Use State Bond money for acquisition; and improved public land management
5.	Reduce sprawl development pressures on Mt. Diablo area & other places	Combination: Infill incentives for city & county and fixed urban limit lines Concern over how to compensate landowners
6.	Wildlife corridors between Gavilan/ Diablo/ Hamilton	Field research (where are best corridors and habitat?) Acquisition or easement plan Work with Caltrans on "Road Ecology"
7.	Private landowners should be more a part of stewardship & planning conservation – ground up approach	Better private landowner involvement
8.	Maintain Bay Area "true" Oak & Oak savannah	Conservation easements coupled with ranching; possibly have easements created for utility lines
9.	Link Bay habitats to ridgeline habitats	Stream corridor protection and restoration; urban streams program
10.	Better stream protection in forested watersheds	Use conservation easement on streams now "unregulated"
11.	Preserve distinctive San Lorenzo watershed; biodiversity (especially salmonids)	Fee and easements Regulatory enforcement Regulate water diversions
12.	Better management of public lands (e.g. rare & endangered species)	Invest operations & management money in state & local park In some cases, improved technical expertise Partnerships for management; build constituency for management More appropriate strategies for managing rare and endangered species
13.	Reduce threat of catastrophic wildfire	Stewardship incentives
14.	"Connect" Mt. Diablo to rest of its range	Develop recreation opportunities Education Inter-agency cooperation
15.	Protect biodiversity "Hot Spots" (e.g. Sand Hills Habitats)	Non profit or public acquisition or easement or incentives

PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES FOR SOUTHERN COUNTIES (SANTA CLARA & SAN MATEO) CONTINUED

Conservation Priorities Strategies Addressing this Priority Maintain Private Forestlands in more ecological sound manner Protect and restore Bay wetlands Acquisition and restoration money wetlands

Overall Trends and Observations

- I. "Linkages" can serve multiple purposes.
- II. There is a clear sense of regional priorities in the Bay Area, and they are well thought out.
- III. Partnerships should be used to work towards all of these goals.
- IV. A lot of fee acquisition may be unrealistic, but there are other tools.
- V. A very common theme in discussion was "well managed lands," but there are different opinions on what that means.
- VI. Habitats with high biodiversity value, but with less visual value (wetlands, grasslands, oaks) may have less vocal constituencies.
- VII. The theme of protecting watersheds can help address many of these issues.
- VIII. Focus on the conservation outcome.

Common Strategies

- I. Public or non-profit acquisition with subsequent good management.
- II. Stewardship money and landowner incentives
- III. Building constituencies and partnerships
- IV. Regulation of forests and watershed
 - There are positives and negatives to regulation
- I. Education of all stakeholders
- II. State legislation
- III. Local land use policy change

2. PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES FOR NORTH AND EAST COUNTIES (SOLANO, PORTIONS OF NAPA)

Conservation Priorities

1. Protect & restore wetland habitat around the Bay

Strategies Addressing this Priority

Seek sufficient funding

Ease concerns regarding Safe Harbor agreements

2. Preserve & analyze grazing

allotments

Hold on to current allotments

Help ranchers stay economically viable

Build database of allotments (including attribute data)

3. Protection of Existing

Resources

Habitats: tidal marsh. diked baylands, seasonal marsh, transitional uplands, vernal pools

e.g. Suisun marsh, Sonoma Marsh, San Pablo Bay, North San Pablo Bay, South Bay Seek sufficient funding

Sustaining restoration partnerships

Keep adjacent agricultural lands economically viable

4. Restoration of Existing Resources (see Habitats

above)

Sustaining restoration partnerships

Keep adjacent agricultural lands economically viable

Obtain funding for ongoing restoration

5. Protect rural landscapes from urban development

Get State support for County conservation vision and plans

Keep agriculture economically viable

Promote tax incentives for the donation of conservation easements on

agricultural land

6. Protection of Oak Woodlands

Acquisition

7. Linkages between people and the land

Form Open space district in Napa & Solano Counties

North Bay interpretive center (e.g. Fish & Wildlife Service at Mare Island)

8. Keep farmers farming

Develop "Super Williamson Act" 20 years in Napa County and other North Bay

counties

Tough sell to County government

Educate regarding: Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, Safe Harbor

agreements

9. Protect and create (through restoration) contiguous riparian habitat corridors

Building on existing work by Coordinated Resource Management and Planning (CRMP's), watershed groups, and Resource Conservation Districts

More acquisition money- for public ownership and for easements where

(RCD's) to identify opportunities and strategies to achieve goal

10. Protection of the breadth of habitat

private ownership is retained Stewardship- public and private

Promoting land management practices

Partnerships

One example: Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area

11. Protection of wildlife corridors for migration & genetic flow

Acquisition

Partnerships with existing landowners Education - public & stakeholders Working with agricultural community

12. Protect listed species and habitats

Seek sufficient money Safe Harbor "concept"

Provide Habitat Conservation Plans/ Natural Community Conservation Plans

Support recovery programs

PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES FOR NORTH AND EAST COUNTIES (SOLANO, PORTIONS OF NAPA) CONTINUED

Summary of Strategies

- I. Acquisition both fee title and easements
- II. Keeping agriculture economically viable:
 - Protects rural landscapes; buffers tidal and other aquatic resources; serves as wildlife corridors
 - Keeps farmers farming & ranchers ranching
- III. Seek sufficient funding, including operations & management money
- IV. Cross-education to maximize benefits
- V. Basic education and outreach
- VI. Follow the goals report of the San Francisco Estuary Project
- VII. Not just protection, also restoration and stewardship
- VIII. The concept of protection has changed to include more partnerships and work with private landowners
- IX. Trust, dialogue, and interaction are vital to creating an atmosphere for working relationships

3. PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES FOR OAKLAND AND INLAND (CONTRA COSTA AND ALAMEDA COUNTIES)

Conservation Priorities Strategies Addressing this Priority 1. Broaden & diversify Go beyond white, middle class; target workshops for different groups (different conservation community occupations, ethnic communities). Demographics of population & Start with like-groups for early conversations, then integrate across groups political base is changing; Use Workshops to listen to input need to maintain constituencies across all groups 2. Manage acquisitions Fund and/ or provide management for operation of lands that have reliable funding 3. Minimize geographic Advocate & provide incentives for infill development expansion of urban areas and Integrate open space into urban environment maintain farm & ranch lands; Making cities livable may reduce desire for ranchettes Local ordinances on growth boundaries implement smart growth Examples of orderly growth seen in Napa & Solano counties Consider realistic urban growth needs Increase wildlife corridors & Conservation credits to promote conservation protection act: no new connectivity development without conservation component (like mitigation) Yolo County has something like this Easements & highway crossings (overpasses & underpasses) Consider predator issues for ranches where there is increased wildlife Greater infusion of science Make today's results available & usable in the future Better engagement of academic community into efforts Include social sciences Better monitoring of projects, learning from results, "adaptive management" 6. Reinstitute "no net loss of Beef up education and enforcement Develop effective incentives to reward protection of wetlands wetlands" policy One example: Jepson Prairie (controlled grazing) Some examples codified in Farm Bill 7. Stronger, long-term Link conservation efforts with education programs conservation ethic Environmental education Amend California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to require a conservation component Conservation impacts of project Could look at many things Set up sustainable stewardship programs (public & private) 8. Protect riparian habitats in State acquisitions East Bay Hills Acquisitions need operation & management funds & options Look at incentives; regulation often counter- productive Incentives don't always work Conservation agreements with protection for landowners (such as Safe Harbor Link farm payments to farmer conservation efforts Similar to FL's Farm Stewardship Program 9. Complete Regional Trails Assurances to landowners on security from vandalism & increased activity; **Projects** liability provision 10. Protect Important bird areas Protect less glamorous areas (fields) (As defined by American Bird Possible legislation; New York State requires management for this resource Conservancy & Audubon on State lands

PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES FOR OAKLAND AND INLAND (CONTRA COSTA AND ALAMEDA) CONTINUED

Priorities Strategies Addressing this Priority

11. Look at other Resource Area Consider grasslands & woodlands & Types

12. Protect Vernal Pools & New State legislation/ regulation isolated (seasonal) wetlands

13. Protect/ restore tidal wetlands in Bay

Acquire Cargill (for true market value)

Restore streams supporting salmonids in the Bay Area

14. Forests

Overall Strategies and Themes

- I. More water is needed for conservation purposes
 - Look at water requirements for conservation efforts
 - It's a balance issue
- II. Bad projects should be stopped
- III. Re-establish trust and understanding between environmental groups & ranchers
 - Hold a workshop for that purpose
 - Work on relationships between groups (at the organizational level, to improve communication on both sides)
- IV. Identify with whom you can collaborate
- V. Protect habitats
- VI. Funding is needed; especially more regional funding
- VII. Educate political leaders on economic benefits of conservation efforts

4. PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES FOR NORTHERN COUNTIES (INCLUDING MARIN, SONOMA, AND PORTIONS OF NAPA)

PORTIONS OF NAPA)							
F	Priorities	Strategies Addressing this Priority					
1	Restoration for anadromous streams	Identify critical habitat areas Identify upslope sediment sources - Poorly designed roads & trails - Grading of land for development Map dirt roads Strengthen Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards Map barriers to fish passage (culverts, dams) Removal of barriers Map water rights Map farm ponds					
2	2. Biodiversity "Hot Spots"	Conservation easements Acquisition Enforcement Build consensus for conservation Transfer of development rights Listing of species (Habitat Conservation Plans) Support important bird area programs One example: California Native Plant Society watch list development					
3	 Prevent invasive species' spread 	Track agricultural stock, shipping ballast & exotic animal introductions Invest in better understanding of spread and impacts Public education Science to support control measures Streamline permitting for interim management					
4	1. Inholdings	Tenacity by stakeholders					
5	5. Wildlife corridors	Transfer of development rights Convene groups for better exchange & sharing of information Analysis of information Tax incentives Targeted education; communication with private landowners					
6	6. Cultural resources	Include in Legacy Project Identify in planning phase Invest in Bureau of Indian Affairs (for recreation/ preservation)					
7	7. Viewsheds (Mt. Diablo, Palisades, Ano Nuevo Coast)	Create development ordinances General plan updates					
8	 Direct planned growth into areas where there will be the least damage 	Incorporate Smart Growth principles into General Plans					
ç	9. Wetlands	Existing implementation plans					
1	10. Funds	Leverage multiple sources					
1	11. Operations & management	Identify in planning phase					
1	 Preservation of agriculture, keeping it viable 	Conservation easements that are improved, less intensive, grazing specific, & with increased incentives					
1	13. Public access	Collect data on available per person acreage					

Collect data on available per person acreage

PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES FOR NORTHERN COUNTIES (INCLUDING MARIN, SONOMA, AND PORTIONS OF NAPA) CONTINUED

Synthesis

- Better mapping
- II. Better information sharing
- III. Smart Growth
- IV. Integrate existing plans
- V. Improved conservation easements

5. STRATEGIES FOR SAN FRANCISCO CITY AND COAST

The fifth small break-out group discussed strategies that can address conservation priorities generally, and did not link their strategies to particular priorities.

Strategies

- 1. Work with pilot project to evaluate various conservation strategies
- 2. Acquisition & easements (develop and monitor)
- 3. Coordination of conservation/ watershed groups tribes, state, local, & federal efforts
- 4. Broaden constituencies (e.g. Center for Disease Control, human health/ fitness, landowners, homeowners, developers)
- 5. Acceptance of conservation values
- 6. Diversify conservation movement by investing in urban areas
- 7. Enhance livability of urban areas
- 8. Tie responsibility to local community
- 9. Build conservation ethic in children & adults
- 10. Outreach and education campaigns to broader interest groups
- 11. Work with local government on zoning, open space elements, e.g. urban limit lines, agricultural preserves, buffers
- 12. Create development "triggers" (similar to San Jose model)
- 13. Infill incentives; development credits
- 14. Remove conservation disincentives (fiscalization of land use)
- 15. Tax policy that encourages "smart growth"
- 16. Use resources in a sustainable manner
- 17. Streamline permitting process
- 18. Local government accountability ("compliance assistance")
- 19. Population dynamic equilibrium
- 20. Develop water budget by watershed, create water management plan
- 21. Groundwater & surface water management plan
- 22. Regulate/ adjudicate private water rights
- 23. Funding
- 24. Enhance staffing for operation and management

III. INFORMATION EXCHANGE



An equally important component of the *Spotlight on Conservation* workshop was the Information Exchange. This is where the Legacy Project displayed existing datasets on regional and statewide maps and gathered information on existing regional conservation plans and priorities from the participants. Participants had several opportunities over the day and a half workshop to view the mapped information, interact with staff, and, most importantly, to provide Legacy with valuable data, feedback, and ideas on conservation.

STATION RESULTS

In The Data Walk portion of the Information Exchange, regional and statewide maps displayed existing datasets of natural resources, working landscapes, and urban growth projections (such as land cover, impaired waterways, etc). Legacy staff members were available to talk about the different maps. Participants were directed to tell us what data might be incorrect and what additional information was needed to help them do their jobs better. Some participants alerted us to incorrect classifications of land ownership: others informed us of the availability of finer scale open space and easement maps. For more details on the datasets and participants' comments, see Appendix D.

At the **Data Catalogs** station, participants were asked, "Are there key restoration and monitoring projects not on the data base?" The station included **The Natural Resource Project Inventory (NRPI)**, which updated information on six projects being conducted in the Bay Area, including resource assessment, restoration, and monitoring efforts. **California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES)** staff fielded questions about the data walk and provided a way for participants to add "data about regional data" to the online CERES data catalogue.

The **Urban Growth Model** displayed projections of population growth distribution and potential urban/ suburban development in the region. This station garnered great interest because participants visually witnessed possible future urban growth scenarios and how they change with different assumptions or constraints on growth.

Many participants visited the **Demo Decision**Support Tools Station staffed by
Environmental Systems Research Institute
(ESRI) employees. This station demonstrated basic and advanced concepts in GIS applications and green mapping. Questions at the station ranged from very technical to more basic ones, such as: What data is available and how is it collected? Staffers noted that the participants were well-informed about GIS technologies.

Participants also contributed information about Existing and Emerging Conservation Plans and Private Land Stewardship Projects, as well as about places that they considered to be Regional and Statewide Conservation Priorities. Their input is recorded on the maps that follow.

BAY AREA EXISTING AND EMERGING CONSERVATION PLANNING EFFORTS

Participants were asked "Are there existing or emerging conservation plans in the region that aren't currently on Legacy's maps? Why are they important?"

Of the 23 conservation efforts identified, about half addressed more than one type of resource. Fifteen of the 23 programs (approximately 65%) dealt with some aspect of Aquatic Biodiversity. Fewer of the programs (43%) addressed Terrestrial Biodiversity, with many of those identified focused on riparian habitat or watershed-wide protection or restoration that would benefit both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity. Roughly 20% of the plans addressed Rural Recreation or Working Landscapes, and only 13% of the plans dealt with Urban Open Space. Restoration was cited as an important goal for ten (43%) of the conservation efforts identified. Of those restoration projects, seven plans focused on restoration of Bay wetlands and two on projects in the Bay Delta.

The dot numbers on the map below are keyed to the subsequent table, which gives information about each plan, such as name of effort, purpose, and the source of information.



Figure 2. Locations of Existing and Emerging Conservation Planning Efforts identified by workshop participants for the Bay Area region.

Table 2: Conservation Planning Efforts (CPE's) identified by workshop participants for the Bay Area.

AB = aquatic biodiversity, watershed including water issues

TB = terrestrial biodiversity, habitat

WL = working landscapes

US = urban open space

RR = rural recreation lands

	Name of Effort	Type of Resource(s) Addressed	County	Scope	Primary Purpose	Source of Information/ Affiliation ²
	Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area	All	Yolo/ Solano/ Napa/ Lake/ Colusa	Putah & Cache Creek Watersheds		Raymond Krauss/ Private Consultant/ Resource Management Specialist
2	Sonoma Valley Habitat Corridor	ТВ	Sonoma	Sonoma Creek Watershed	Protect viable habitat corridor across the Sonoma Creek watershed between the Sonoma Mountains and the Mayacama Mountains	Ryan Branciforte/ Sonoma Ecology Center
3	Solano County Agricultural Preservation Plan & Open Space Plan	WL, RR	Solano	County-Wide	Define criteria for conservation. The Agricultural Preservation & Open Space Plan are working in parallel	Julian Meisner/ Solano Land Trust
4	Tri City & County Cooperative Planning Group	WL, RR	Solano		Preserve 16,000 acres of Fairfield, Benicia, Vallejo	Julian Meisner/ Solano Land Trust
5	Sonoma Creek	AB	Sonoma	Sonoma Creek Watershed	Improve water quality & fisheries	S. Sonoma County RCD
6	Updating General Plans	WL, US, RR	Sonoma/ Marin	Sonoma & Marin County	Open space acquisition; public access	David Hansen/ Land Paths Marin Co. Open Space District
7	San Pablo Watershed Stewardship Plan	AB	Sonoma/ Napa	Eastern Marin & southern Sonoma & Napa County	Restore habitat; improve water quality; set restoration priorities	Randy Raines/ North Bay Watershed Association
8	Suisun Charter Agreement	AB	Solano	Suisun Marsh	Improve habitat management & restoration	Dan Ray/ CALFED Bay Delta Program
9	CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan	AB	Marin/ Sonoma/ Napa/ Solano/ Contra Costa	Bay Delta watershed with many detailed areas	Coordinate ecosystem restoration activities in Bay- Delta watershed, including Siusun marsh and San Pablo Bay	Dan Ray/ CALFED Bay Delta Program
10	Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Project	AB, TB		San Francisco Estuary baylands and associated habitats	Restore sufficient Bay wetland & associated habitats to make the Bay ecosystem sustainable for native fish & wildlife	Mike Sellors/ National Audobon Society
11	Marin Watershed Management Plan	AB	Marin	West Marin County	Identify criteria & set restoration priorities on a sub-watershed level; restore habitat; improve water quality	Michell Rodriguez/ Marin Co. Planning
	Marin Baylands NWR	AB, TB	Marin	Undeveloped Baylands in Marin Coast	Preserve & restore Marin Co. Baylands	Cathy Osugi/ Fish and Wildlife Service Planning
	CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (This is the same effort as # 9, but highlights a different geographic focus)	AB	Contra Costa/ Solano	Legal Delta	Coordinate ecosystem restoration activities in the Delta	Dan Ray/ CALFED Bay

^{2.} Source of information only. Does not necessarily represent a formal priority of organization.

Table 2 cont'd.

	Name of Effort	Type of Resource(s) Addressed	County	Geographic Scope	Primary Purpose	Source of Information/ Affiliation ²
	Mt. Diablo Habitat Conservation Plan - State Park	TB, RR	Contra Costa	State Park	Species issues; defining what can & can't take place for: facilities, infrastructure, recreation	
15	Bobcat Habitat Suitability Model	ТВ		San Francisco Bay Area	Identify suitable habitat for bobcats in San Francisco Bay area	Rich Hunter/ Sonoma Ecology Center
16	Proposed Contra Costa funding measure	TB, WL, US	Contra Costa	Contra Costa County	\$130 million proposed assessment district ballot measure to raise \$ to buy land	John Kopchik/ Contra Costa Co. Development Dept.
17	San Francisco Bay Joint Venture	AB	All 9 Bay Area Co.s	San Francisco Bay watershed, San Mateo coast	Acquisition, restoration & enhancements of wetlands & riparian habitats	Beth Huning/ San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
	Habitat Goals project (This is the same effort as # 10 & # 23, but highlights a different geographic focus)	АВ		San Francisco Bay wetlands restoration	Restoration of Bay wetlands ecosystems	Arthur Feinstein/ Mike Manroe
19	East Dublin Habitat Conservation Plan	ТВ	Alameda	1100 acres on eastern boundary of the city (plus offsite mitigation)	Mitigate for annexation & development of 1100 acres	City of Dublin Planning
20	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan	АВ, ТВ	San Mateo	Peninsula watershed lands, Crystal Springs Reservoirs	Implement watershed management plan; mitigate for capital improvement program	Bob Hickman/ San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
21	San Lorenzo Rivers Salmonid Enhancement	AB, TB	Santa Cruz	Watershed wide	Steelhead, water quality (for coho)	Kevin Collins
	Utilities Commission Alameda Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan	АВ, ТВ	Alameda/ Santa Clara	36,000 acres in Alameda watershed	Implement their watershed management plan: mitigate for their capital improvement program	Bob Hickman/ San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
	Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Project (This is the same effort as # 10 & # 18, but highlights a different geographic focus)	АВ		San Francisco Bay wetlands restoration	Restoration of Bay wetland ecosystems	Arthur Feinstein/ Golden Gate Audubon

^{2.} Source of information only. Does not necessarily represent a formal priority of organization.

PRIVATE LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

Participants were asked to identify sites where private stewardship conservation projects are in place and have demonstrated success. The six identified stewardship efforts varied in focus and scope. Four of the projects were defined by watershed boundaries, and three of these were focused on the Napa River Watershed. Preservation of agricultural land and promotion of sustainable agricultural practices were cited as goals of four of the projects, with two of these addressing vineyards in Napa County.

Table 3. Private Land Stewardship Projects identified by workshop participants for the Bay Area region.

Name of Area/ County	Name of Effort	Year Initiated	Primary aim(s)	Primary landscapes, habitats, or ecosystems involved	Currently Funded?	Source of Information/ Affiliation ³
Sonoma County	Ag. & Open Space District	Uncertain	Agricultural open space, habitat, and recreation lands in the city			Andrew Mackenzie/ Sonoma City Ag & Open Space
Blue Ridge Berryessa/ E. Napa/ W. Yolo/ S.E. Lake/ W. Collusa	Blue Ridge/ Berryessa Natural Area Conservation Partnership	Uncertain	Conservation, preservation, management of natural, ag, & recreational land	Upper Cache & Putah Creek watersheds		Raymond Krauss/ Resource Environmental Specialist
Napa Co. & Napa River Watershed/ Napa	Stewardship Program	1980's	Partnerships in the 48 tributaries to the Napa River to develop local protection/ restoration plans/ programs & to share diverse community perspectives about natural resources	Napa River Watershed: riparian and uplands	Yes, Dept. of Conservation, Private Funding, Calfed, Dept of Fish and Game	Leigh Sharp/ Napa Resource Conservation District
Napa River Watershed/ Napa	Napa Sustainable Winegrowing Group	Uncertain	Identify & promote wine growing practices that are economically viable, socially responsible & environmentally sound	Vineyard lands	Previously funded by NRCJ- currently funded privately & by RCD	Astrid-Bock-Foster/ Napa Resource Conservation District
Napa River Watershed/ Napa	Napa Green Program	2002		Vineyards & associated lands in Napa River Watershed	Yes, State Coastal Conservancy; State Water Resources Control Board	Leigh Sharp/ Napa Resource Conservation District
King-Swett Ranch/ Solano	Tri-City (Benicia, Fairfield, Vallejo) & County Joint Powers Authority	1990's	To protect critical habitat for Red-legged frog & other listed species. King Ranch has been purchased; there is till grazing & docent-led public access. Swett Ranches are under option.		More than \$4 million needed to complete Swett Ranch acquisition. Money also needed to open trail system.	Ann Buell/ State Coastal Conservancy

^{3.} Source of information only. Does not necessarily represent a formal priority of organization.

REGIONAL CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

At the regional conservation priorities station, participants were asked to place dots on a state map to identify the top three places and/ or resources needing additional conservation attention in the region. The locations identified by participants as regional conservation priorities are shown on the map below. It is important to note that these dots do not represent the priorities of the participant group as a whole; rather, it is a collection of individual's ideas. This information can be used to consider new places for investment as well as to identify interested groups for a particular location. The dot numbers are keyed to the subsequent table, which provides information about each site, such as location, importance, and the source of information. Of the 58 locations identified, the Napa River watershed received the greatest attention. A total of seven dots were assigned in Napa Valley and Napa County, primarily along the main stem of the Napa River. Additional notable sites that were assigned at least three dots included Mount Hamilton and its range; the Sonoma Mountains; and the area in Alameda County around Livermore, Springtown and Altamont. Many of the chosen sites centered on wildlife corridors; habitat for rare, endangered, and sensitive species; and preservation of wetlands. Importance to regional water supply and preservation of agriculture were also repeatedly cited as reasons for conservation attention. Land protection (through acquisition or easement) was the most commonly cited needed action (mentioned 27 times). Other recommendations for needed actions included restoration (mentioned 12 times) and ensuring economic viability of agriculture (mentioned 6 times).

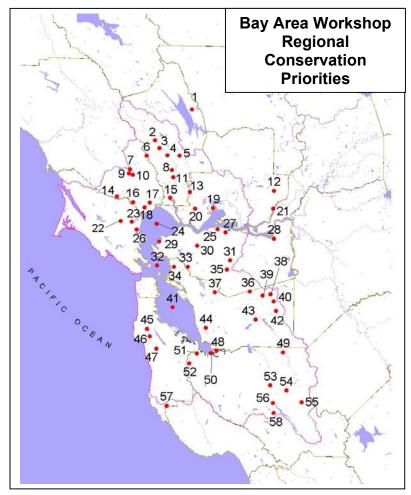


Figure 3. Locations of Regional Conservation Priorities identified by workshop participants for the Bay Area region.

Table 4. Regional Conservation Priorities identified by workshop participants for the Bay Area region

	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Affiliation⁴	Existing Effort for the Location
1	Eastside of Lake Berryessa	Napa	High importance	Acquisition of fee title or easement	Kerry O'Toole/ American Land Conservancy	Uncertain
2	Napa River Watershed	Napa	Biodiversity; species protection	Regulatory Action; land acquisition; conservation easements	Karen Rippey/ US Army Corps. of Engineers	Napa Co.; Napa Land Trust
3	Napa Watershed	Napa	High importance; Endangered Species Act issues; impaired watershed	Funds for restoration of riparian corridors	Sandy Elles/ Napa County Farm Bureau	Yes, Watershed Task Force; Watershed Conservancy
4	Napa Valley	Napa	High importance; Huge urbanization threats	Funding conservation easements	Sandy Elles/ Napa County Farm Bureau	Yes, Land Trust
5	Napa County	Napa		Conserve working agriculture; protect working watershed	Leigh K. Sharp/ Napa Co. Resource Conservation District	
6	Mayacamas	Sonoma	North south linkages	Link available field data; build more detailed info	Preservation & Open Space District	Sonoma Co. Ag Preservation & Open Space District (SCAPOSD)
7	West Side of Sonoma Mountain	Sonoma	Link up with Sonoma Valley habitat corridor to Petaluma side of Sonoma	Land acquisition	Ryan Branciforte/ Sonoma Ecology Center	Uncertain
	Napa County	Napa	High importance	Nature Conservancy plan		Uncertain
9	Sonoma Mountain	Sonoma	Very high importance	Open space preservation, trails	David Hansen/ Marin Co. Open Space District	Yes
10	Sonoma Mountain	Sonoma	Critical for linking uplands; existing habitat corridor	Integration of field data into GIS	Kathleen Brennan Hunter/ Sonoma Co. Ag Preservation & Open Space District	Yes
11	Napa County	Napa	Info. center on environment, model for other communities	Plant community mapping		Uncertain
12	Rio Vista	Solano	Loss of ag land on Liberty Island, Prospect Island, & in the Delta generally	Mitigate impart of loss of farmland on farm infrastructure	Al Medvitz/ McCamach Sheep & Grain/ Solano Co. Farm Bureau	Fish & Wildlife Service
	Madryan Lakes Ridge, between Napa & Solano	Napa, Solano	Habitat connectivity	Land acquisition	Karen Rippey/ US Army Corps. of Engineers	Uncertain
	San Antonio Valley		High importance	Acquisition	Greg Carr/ Sonoma County Planning	Uncertain
15	Napa River	Napa/ Solano	Estuary fish & wildlife	Restore salt ponds & diked bayland		CALFED
16	Petaluma River	Marin	High	Acquire as much open space as available	Kerry O'Toole/ American Land Conservancy	Yes, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture "Restoring the Estuary" strategy
	West edge of Napa/ Sonoma Marsh	Sonoma	Connection with upland/ transitional habitats	Land acquisition; public outreach	Karen Rippey/ US Army Corps. of Engineers	Uncertain
	Sonoma Bay	Sonoma	High importance	Easement/ acquisition	Greg Carr/ Sonoma County Planning	Yes, portions; Sonoma Land Trust Sonoma Baylands parcel
19	Suisun Marsh	Solano	Habitat	Management	Mary Small/ State Coastal Conservancy	Yes
	Swett Ranches	Solano	Red-legged frog; trails	Acquisition	Ann Buell/ Coastal Conservancy	Tri-City and County Joint Powers Authority
21	Rio Vista	Solano	Largest conservation easement in the state	Ensure economic viability	Al Medvitz/ McCamach Sheep & Grain/ Solano Co. Farm Bureau	Solano Land Trust

^{4.} Source of information only. Does not necessarily represent a formal priority of organization.

Table 4 cont'd.

Dot	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Source of Information/ Affiliation ⁴	Existing Effort for the Location
22	Hill Ranch	Marin	Very high importance	Preserve as public open space trails/ connection	David Hansen/ Marin Co. Open Space District	Yes, Marin Co. Open Space District
	Saint Vincents Silveira	Marin	Seasonal wetlands	Acquisition	Arthur Feinstein/ Golden Gate Audubon	Society
24	San Francisco Baylands	Regionwide	80% of Bay wetlands have been lost	Coordinated regional acquisition & restoration	Mike Sellors/ National Audubon Society	San Francisco Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Project; SF Bay Joint Venture "Restoring the Estuary"
25	Concord Naval Weapons Base	Contra Costa	Wetlands on bay with tons of wildlife (river otters galore)	Acquisition	Susan O'Neil/ Nat'l Park Service	Uncertain
26	Saint Vincents Silveira	Marin	Very high importance	Preserve as public open space trails/ connection	David Hansen/ Marin Co. Open Space District	Uncertain
27	Concord Naval Weapons Base	Contra Costa	Wetlands, grasslands	Maintain public sector control	Barbara Smith/ Environmental Protection Agency	
	Dutch Slough	Contra Costa	Habitat; open space; has been acquired	Restoration	Mary Small/ State Coastal Conservancy	Natural Heritage Institute
	Richmond/ San Pablo Bayshore	Contra Costa	Urban recreation, endangered wildlife	Protect & restore salt marsh		Bayland Goals; Bob Doyle, E. Bay Reg. Parks Dist.; Beth Huning, S.F. Bay Joint Venture
30	Franklin Ridge	Contra Costa	Corridor between Briones & waterfront	Land preservation from development	Beth Pardieck/ Muir Heritage Land Trust	
	Mt. Diablo	Contra Costa	Rare species; need for corridors	Protect; provide links	Joanne Kerbavaz/ State Parks/ Bay Area District	Conservation Plan
32	Baylands					S.F. Bay Joint Venture "Restoring the Estuary"
	Gateway Orinda	Contra Costa	Critical for Caldicott corridor	Acquisition (in progress)	Arthur Feinstein/ Golden Gate Audubon	Coastal Conservancy
34	Strawberry Creek	Alameda	Link existing stream restoration projects along Strawberry Creek with upper watershed, creating a habitat corridor with an urban interface all the way to the San Francisco Bay	Additional land acquisition; daylighting; stream restoration along urbanized creek up to upper watershed	Kuaton Malchon/ Dept. Water Resources/ Urban Streams Program	Urban Creeks Council
35	Diablo Ridgelands	Contra Costa/ Almeda/ Santa Clara	Wildlife corridor habitat	Land acquisition; conservation easements; wildlife corridors	Ann Buell/ Coastal Conservancy	Diablo Ridgelands Working Group
36		Alameda/ Contra Costa	Corridor	Stewardship incentives; agricultural viability		Diablo Ridgelands Working Group
37	Eastside of Pleasonton Ridge	Alameda	If ridge is to be protected, acquisition should happen now	Acquisition of fee title or easement	Kerry O'Toole/ American Land Conservancy	Uncertain
38	Springtown (Livermore area)	Alameda	Rare plants	Protect species & habitats	•	Uncertain
39	Livermore Springtown Alkali Sink	Alameda	Rare habitats; Endangered Species; high threats	Improve hydrology; protect land; manage resources		No
40	Altamont Pass	Alameda	Habitat connectivity	Protection of corridors	BC Capps/ Bay Area Open Space Council	Uncertain
	San Francisco Baylands	Regionwide	80% of Bay wetlands have been lost	Coordinated regional acquisition & restoration	Mike Sellors/ National Audubon Society	San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Implementation Plan, "Restoring the Estuary"
42	Altamont	Alameda/ San Joaquin	Corridor	Stewardship incentives; agricultural viability		Diablo Ridgelands Working Group

^{4.} Source of information only. Does not necessarily represent a formal priority of organization.

Table 4 cont'd.

Dot	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Source of Information/ Affiliation ⁴	Existing Effort for the Location
43		Alameda County	Corridor	Stewardship incentives; agricultural viability		Yes
44	Ardenwood/ Fremont-Coyote Tract	Alameda	Seasonal wetlands	Acquisition	Arthur Feinstein/ Golden Gate Audubon	Yes, Within Don Edwards San Francisco Bay Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Boundary
45		San Mateo	Regional water supply	Watershed sentinel system		Uncertain
46		San Mateo	Regional water supply	Vegetative fuel management		Uncertain
47		San Mateo	Regional water supply	Abate feral pigs (est. 100,000)		Uncertain
	Salt Ponds	San Mateo/ Santa Clara	Habitat; open space; have been acquired	Restoration	Mary Small/ State Coastal Conservancy	Coastal Conservancy
	Mt. Hamilton	Alameda	High importance	Conservation easements with ranchers	Jill Butler/ CA Dept. of Forestry	Uncertain
	Baylands	Santa Clara	Wetlands; regional trails	conservation; bay trail	Resource Agency of Santa Clara Co.	Association of Bay Area Governments; US Fish & Wildlife Service; local agencies; SF Bay Joint Venture "Restoring the Estuary"
	San Francisquito Creek	Santa Clara/ San Mateo	Steelhead trout	restoration	Ann Buell/ Coastal Conservancy	Joint Powers Authority, San Francisquito Creek
	Stanford University Endowment Lands	Santa Clara	High importance	permanent protection	· ·	Uncertain, Poss. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
53	Mt. Hamilton	Santa Clara	Open space protection; regional trails	land holdings; ridge	Lisa Killough/ Environmental Resource Agency of Santa Clara Co.	Nature Conservancy; local agencies; Ridge Trail Council
	Mt. Hamilton Range	Santa Clara	Area of representative natural communities at scale to protect ecological processes	Appropriate land management via multiple strategies	Jody Williams/ The Nature Conservancy	Nature Conservancy & partners
	Henry Coe State Park	Stanislaus/ Santa Clara	Largest State Park in Northern CA; wilderness	No high speed rail through park	Barbara Hill/ California State Park Foundation	Uncertain
	Coyote Ridge	Santa Clara	Serpentine grassland; rare species; high threats	Preserve land; enhance habitat	David Zippin/ Jones & Stokes	Santa Clara Habitat Conservation Plan
57	Año Nuevo/ Big Basin	San Mateo/ Santa Cruz	Connect protected areas/ habitat corridors	Protect; provide links	Joanne Kerbavaz/ State Parks/ Bay Area District	Uncertain
58	Pacheco Farmlands	Santa Clara	Agriculture	of agricultural lands	Lisa Killough/ Environmental Resource Agency of Santa Clara Co.	Uncertain

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STATEWIDE CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

At the statewide conservation priorities station, participants were asked to place dots on a state map to identify the top three places and resources needing additional conservation attention in the state. The locations are shown on the map below. It is important to note that these dots do not represent the priorities of the participant group as a whole; rather, it is a collection of individual's ideas. The dot numbers are keyed to the subsequent table, which gives information about each site, such as location, reason for conservation needs, and the source of information. The majority of dots were placed in the Bay Area; this probably reflects the fact that participants are most knowledgeable about their own region, and also indicates that participants believe conservation priorities in their region are among the most pressing in the state. The dots were distributed throughout the Bay region, without clusters around any particular sites. A few large, general areas that did receive particular attention were the coastal areas north and east of Monterey Bay, San Francisco Baylands, and areas in the coast ranges, especially around Mt. Hamilton and the Diablo Ridgelands. On a statewide basis, preservation of agriculture and protection of large intact landscapes, wildlife corridors, riparian areas, and water quality were repeatedly cited as important concerns.

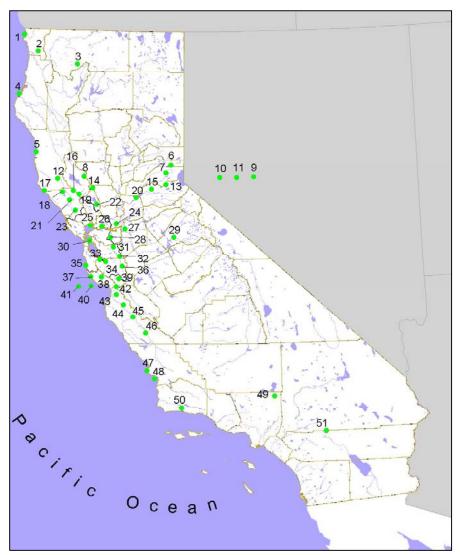


Figure 4. Locations of Statewide Conservation Priorities identified by workshop participants for the Bay Area region.

Table 5. Statewide Conservation Priorities identified by workshop participants for the Bay Area

region.

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Dot	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Source of Information/ Affiliation ⁵
1	Lake Earl	Del Norte	Medium importance	Management & acquisition funding	Jill Butler/ CA Dept. of Forestry
2	Klamath, North Coast	Del Norte			Mary P. Small/ Coastal Conservancy
3	Klamath- Siskiyou Ecosystem	Northern CA	High biodiversity; relative health of ecosystem; existing & potential habitat linkages	Integrated system of publicly protected areas & ecologically sustainable working landscapes	Mike Sellors/ National Audubon Society
	Coastal Redwood Ecosystem	coastal Co.s	Endemic to California; threatened by disease, non- sustainable use & urban/ suburban encroachment	Integrated system of publicly protected areas & ecologically sustainable working landscapes	Mike Sellors/ National Audubon Society
5	Highway 80 Corridor	San Joaquin/ Sacramento	Develop natural/ recreational corridor from the Sierra to the sea; high priority		Michael Alexander/ Golden Gate Nat'l Rec. Area & Point Reyes Nat'l Seashore
6	Placer County	Placer	Foothills urbanization; Sierras	Needs open space agriculture preservation district	David Hansen/ Marin Co. Open Space District
7	Bear Valley	Lake/ Colusa	High importance	Conservation easement funding; outreach	Jill Butler/ CA Dept. of Forestry
8	Statewide	Statewide	Critical importance	Protection of tidal wetlands	Arthur Feinstein/ Golden Gate Audubon
9	Statewide	Statewide	Critical importance	Protection of isolated wetlands	Arthur Feinstein/ Golden Gate Audubon
10	Statewide	Statewide	Critical importance	Protection of riparian habitat	Arthur Feinstein/ Golden Gate Audubon
	Russian River	Medocino/ Sonoma	Water quality & habitat protection	Stream setbacks; reduce water withdrawals	Karen Rippey/US Army Corps of Engineers
	West Slope Sierra	Placer/ El Dorado	Habitat; open space; recreation		Mary P. Small/ Coastal Conservancy
13	Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area	Yolo/ Lake/ Colusa	High importance	Rangeland easement funds	Raymond Krauss
14	Sacramento & Placer Counties	Sacramento/ Placer	Create a habitat/ migration/ recreational transportation corridor link from Sacramento to Lake Tahoe, from the Sierra to the Delta	Acquire riparian habitat along the upper American River Watershed	Kurt Malchow/ Department of Water Resources/ Urban Streams Restoration Program
15	Northern Mayacamas Mountains	Sonoma/ Lake/ Napa/ Mendocino	High importance	Planning & acquisition funds	Raymond Krauss
	Gualala River	Sonoma/ Mendocino	Wildlife habitat; fish	Water quality protection	
17	Sonoma County	Sonoma	Agriculture	Keep agricultural	Cheryl McGovern
18	Stevenson	Napa	Palisades; peregrines; historic mines	Acquisition; connection to State Park land	Marla Hastings/ CA Dept. of Parks & Rec.
19	American River & Consumnes River	San Joaquin/ Sacramento	Develop natural/ recreational corridor from the Sierra to the sea; high priority		Michael Alexander/ Golden Gate Nat'l Rec. Area & Point Reyes Nat'l Seashore
20	Willow Creek	Sonoma	Upper watershed to Russian River	Acquisition	Marla Hastings/ CA Dept. of Parks & Rec.
	Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area	Napa/ Solano	Major landscape resources	Acquisition & stewardship of rangelands	John Woodbury/ Bay Area Open Space Council
	Laguna de Santa Rosa	Sonoma	Low importance	Management funding	Jill Butler/ CA Dept. of Forestry
	Sacramento/ San Joaquin Delta	Sacramento	Develop natural/ recreational corridor from the Sierra to the sea; high priority		Michael Alexander/ Golden Gate Nat'l Rec. Area & Point Reyes Nat'l Seashore
24	Napa Sonoma Marsh	Napa/ Solano Sonoma	High for multiple species	Additional funding	Larry Wyckoff/ Dept. Fish & Game
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⁵. Source of information only. Does not necessarily represent a formal priority of organization.

Table 5 cont'd.

	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Source of Information/ Affiliation ⁵
25	Suisun Bay	Solano	Bay Delta wetlands	Protection & restoration	Steve Staub/ Forestry & Environmental Consultant
	San Joaquin Delta	San Joaquin County	Delta wetlands & habitat	Protection & restoration	Steve Staub/ Forestry & Environmental Consultant
27		Contra Costa/ Alameda		Needs more attention by funders for habitat/ ag/ urban clash	Alameda County RCD
	Tuolumne Co. to copper poles upland	,	Large intact blue oak woodland in watershed that originates in Yosemite Nat'l Park	Mapping; info. gathering; add to park	Kathleen Brennan Hunter/ Sonoma Co. Ag Preservation & Open Space District
29	San Francisco Baylands	7 Bay Area Counties	SF Bay contains 90% of CAs remaining coastal wetlands	Coordinated bayland acquisition & restoration	Mike Sellors/ National Audubon Society; SF Bay Joint Venture "Restoring the Estuary"
	Diablo Ridgelands	Alameda/ Santa Clara	Habitat		Mary P. Small/ Coastal Conservancy
31	Diablo Ridgelands	Alameda/ Contra Costa/ Santa Clara/ Stanislaus/ San Joaquin/ Merced	Major landscape resources	Protect connections & corridors	John Woodbury/ Bay Area Open Space Council
	South Bay	Santa Clara/ Alameda	Bay area wetlands	Protection and restoration	Steve Staub/ Forestry & Environmental Consultant
33		Santa Clara		Needs more attention by funders for habitat/ ag/ urban clash	Alameda County RCD
	San Mateo Coast	San Mateo	Ecological; farming/ ranching	Stewardship money	John Woodbury/ Bay Area Open Space Council
35	Mount Hamilton Range	Santa Clara/ Stanislaus/ Merced	Uninterrupted habitat	Acquisition; partnership with other agencies such as Nature Conservancy and local agencies	Lisa Killough/ Environmental Resources Agency
36	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	Unique forest in/near urban area	Buffers; protect from cutting	Cheryl McGovern
37	Sand Hills	Santa Cruz	Numerous endemic plant and insect spp.	Protection and appropriate management	Frank Barrow/ Santa Cruz County Planning Dept.
38	Coyote Valley	Santa Clara	Habitat/ migration corridor between Santa Cruz Mountains & Diablo Range	Field research, identification and protection of corridors	Frank Barrow/ Santa Cruz County Planning Department
39	Areas of high fuel loading	Santa Cruz	Risk of catastrophic wildfire	Fuel treatment; public education	Steven M. Butler/ Santa Cruz Resource Conservation District
40	Migratory Stream Corridors	Santa Cruz	Salmon migration and steelhead	Barrier removal	Steven M. Butler/ Santa Cruz Resource Conservation District
41	Pajaro Gap/ Chittendon/ Hwy. 129	Santa Cruz/ Monterey/ San Benito	Habitat/ migration corridor between Santa Cruz and Gabilan Mountain Ranges	Field research, identification and protection of corridors	Frank Barrow/ Santa Cruz County Planning Department
	Salinas	Monterey	Agricultural salad bowl	Keep agricultural	Cheryl McGovern
	Salinas Valley	Monterey	Agricultural protection	Active easement program	David Hansen/ Marin Co. Open Space District
44	Salinas River		Habitat protection	Stream setbacks, corridor connection	Karen Rippey/US Army Corps of Engineers
45	Salinas Watershed	S L Obispo/ Monterey	Agricultural; open space; habitat biodiversity	Ag preservation	Kris O'Connor/ Central Coast Vineyard Team
46	Central Coast	San Luis Obispo		Needs more attention by funders for habitat/ ag/ urban clash	Alameda County RCD
	Pismo Beach	San Luis Obispo	Coastal marsh & dunes	Preserve open spaces & linkages; manage human activity in sensitive areas	Kris Vardas/ California State Lands Commission
48	Eastern Los Angeles County	Los Angeles	Desert habitat protection	Preservation	Karen Rippey/US Army Corps of Engineers
49	Santa Barbara Coastland	Santa Barbara	Urbanization	Acquisition program; Open Space District	David Hansen/ Marin Co. Open Space District
50	Joshua Tree National Park	Riverside/ San Bernardino	Big horn sheep; black bear, & mountain lion habitat corridor	Linkage across highway 62	Ryan Branciforte/ Sonoma Ecology Center

^{5.} Source of information only. Does not necessarily represent a formal priority of organization.

IV. FINAL REPORT

The Legacy Project will place an interim report from each workshop on the Legacy Project website, once it has been reviewed by participants for accuracy. The project will also further examine the existing and emerging plans, suggested conservation priorities and strategies, and the proposed places for priority investment in the region. The Legacy Project will produce a final report summarizing results from all nine workshops late in 2003. The report will be available on the website or by mail for review by all interested parties, and will be

the basis for future dialogue with regional citizens. A final wrap-up session will be held July 16, 2003 in Sacramento. Information and analyses from these workshops will be shared with Resources Agency departments, boards and conservancies to assist them in their conservation investment decision-making. Workshop results will also be applied in developing better data and planning-support tools and information for stakeholders across the state.

APPENDIX A WORKSHOP LOGISTICS

The invitation process

The Legacy Project and its consultants identified a wide range of stakeholders from throughout the region to provide as much balance in geographic distribution as possible for the Bay Area workshop. The compilation of the invitation list and acceptance of registrations was accomplished with the help of many people. The practical logistics of the effort are summarized as follows:

- The workshop regions were developed based on the California Biodiversity Council Bioregions of the State.
- Approximately 90 Advisory Committee members from public agencies, businesses, non-profit organizations, and the private sector were consulted to suggest potential candidates for the Bay Area workshop.
- The list was carefully reviewed and balanced for categorical inclusion and regional representation. We included a wide variety of stakeholders from public agencies to private landowners, from environmental groups to agricultural interests. Further, we continually reviewed the geographic representation, working by counties, and increased the outreach to underrepresented areas.

- Over 200 invitation letters were mailed. RSVPs were received either by phone, postcard or e-mail.
- The respondent lists were reviewed for balance in category and geographic representation, and the follow up outreach focused on underrepresented groups.

Pre-workshop packets

- As the RSVP responses were received, pre-workshop packets were subsequently mailed out.
- The packets contained detailed information on the locations, agenda, the discussion group process, and a detailed description of the Information Exchange.

Workshop participation

 There were 91 participants and 6 observers over the course of the day and a half workshop.



Remy, Thomas &

Moose

California Legacy Project San Francisco Bay Area Spotlight on Conservation Workshop

AGENDA

Park Plaza Hotel, Oakland International Airport 150 Hegenberger Road, Oakland, CA 94621 The California (510) 635-5300 Resources Agency **Sponsors** October 16: Day 1 Platinum: 1:00 pm Welcome by Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, California **Environment Now** Coastal Conservancy. The Evan Frankel Foundation 1:15 Introductions and workshop overview. California 1:30 Presentation and discussion of the Legacy Project: Department of Parks and Madelyn Glickfeld, Assistant Secretary for Resources, Recreation California Legacy Project. Trust for Public Land 2:15 Break The Wildlands 2:30 Developing a regional plan from the ground up: John Conservancy Woodbury, Director, Bay Area Open Space Council. US Geological Survey 3:00 Brainstorm session on established and emerging Gold: conservation plans, regional challenges, risks and opportunities. The Irvine Objective: To gain a sense of the unique characteristics of the region Company and how they affect conservation efforts. State Parks Foundation Description of 1st small-group exercise on developing 3:45 criteria used for conservation planning. Endangered Habitats League 4:00 Information Exchange; light buffet. The Conservation Fund Objective: To share information on natural resources and conservation in the region. California State Coastal 7:00 pm Adjourn Conservancy Silver: Defenders of Wildlife



California Legacy Project San Francisco Bay Area Spotlight on Conservation Workshop

AGENDA

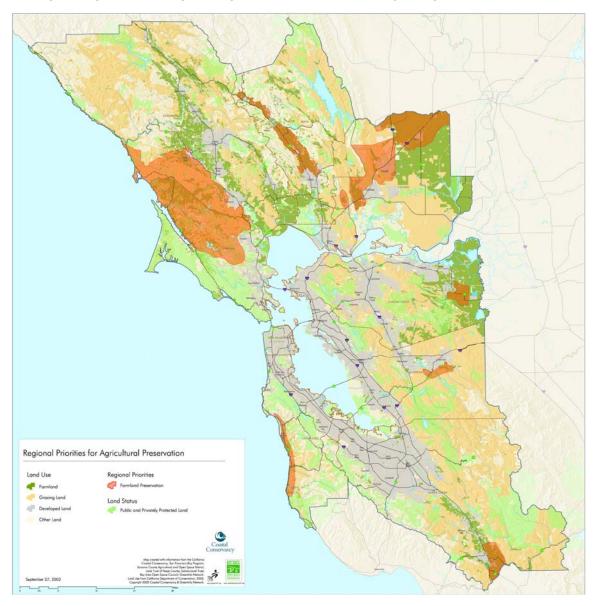
		October 17: Day 2
The California Resources	8:00 am	Information Exchange; continental breakfast.
Agency	8:30	Kick off by Supervisor Keith Carson, Alameda County
Sponsors ———	8:40	Introduction to 2 nd day's activities; brief review of 1 st day; review of small-group exercise on conservation "criteria."
Platinum:		review of small-group exercise on conservation chiena.
Environment Now	8:50	Small group session; identifying conservation criteria. Objective: To gain a sense of criteria that participants would use for
The Evan Frankel Foundation		determining investments in conservation of various resources (terrestrial biodiversity; aquatic biodiversity, riparian habitats and watersheds;
California Department of		agricultural and range lands; forestry; urban open space; and rural recreation).
Parks and Recreation	10:30	Break
Trust for Public Land	10:45	Large group session; ranking the importance of the criteria established by the small groups.
The Wildlands Conservancy		Objective: To allow participants to hear what each group decided and have the chance to rank the relative importance of the various criteria
US Geological Survey		established by the small groups.
Gold:	12:00	Information Exchange; buffet lunch
The Irvine Company	1:40 pm	Demonstration: using criteria in mapping high value conservation investments
State Parks Foundation		Objective: To allow participants to review how conservation criteria can be used in an interactive modeling and mapping tool that helps in making conservation decisions.
Endangered Habitats League	2:15	Break
The Conservation Fund	2:25	Small group session; conservation priorities and strategies Objective: To gain a sense of participant's highest priorities for
California State Coastal Conservancy		conservation, and to discuss strategic directions and steps to achieve these outcomes.
Silver:	3:45	Report workshop results to Mary Nichols, Secretary for Resources.
Defenders of Wildlife	4:45	Brief discussion of next steps and follow-up.
Remy, Thomas & Moose	5:00 pm	Adjourn

APPENDIX B

Major landscape-scale habitats and recreation areas worthy of public investment, including current high priority projects for the Bay Area Conservancy Program.



Bay Area Conservancy map showing high priority areas for agricultural protection, distinguishing areas of irrigated agriculture from important grazing lands.



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APPENDIX C

METHODOLOGY FOR WEIGHTING REGIONAL CONSERVATION CRITERIA

Once the small group identified criteria for each of the resource categories, they edited, simplified, and refined them. In the large group, facilitators presented each of the criteria. For each resource category, participants ranked all of the criteria, numbering them from highest to lowest priority (1=highest priority). Our process of criteria ranking purposefully does not ask participants to express priority between different resource types (e.g. aquatic biodiversity criteria aren't ranked against working lands criteria). Rather, participants are only asked to express priority within a given resource category (e.g. the identified aquatic biodiversity criteria are ranked against one another).

Based on the full group's scores, a relative level of priority is then determined for each criterion. The process for determining relative priority is as follows: For each criterion, all of participants' scores are summed. Once the values for each criterion are totaled, a "percent rank of total score" is calculated. The criteria with the maximum total score is be given a 100% and all other scores are given a percentage relative to that maximum score. A model for extracting "natural breaks" is then used to group the relative percent scores into three classes (low, medium, and high priority). The Jenk's Model extracts "natural breaks" between the relative percent scores by grouping them into 3 classes in which the sum of each group's variance minimized.

APPENDIX D

INFORMATION EXCHANGE DATA

AVAILABLE DATA & DATA NEEDS

** Approximation only--refer to original physical maps for detailed location

C = correction N = needed

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Data	Comment	Location**	Source of information
AV	GIS data available on CD	Blue Ridge/ Berryessa Natural Area	Rob Thayer/ UC Davis
AV	Currently putting together a grazing data layer	Statewide	Clemens Arrasmith/ California Office, Bureau of Land Management
AV	Provided 5 maps of Marin County. Has general plan updates.	Marin County	Larisa Roznowski/ Marin Co. Community Development Agency
AV	Has data and is interested in sharing it.	Regionwide	Raymond Krauss/ Resource Management Specialist
AV	Has data and is interested in sharing it.	Napa County	John Hoffnagle/ Land Trust of Napa County
AV	Has data and is interested in sharing it.	Regionwide	Darrel Sweet/ California Rangeland Trust
AV	Provided 2 habitat linkages maps. Has data on Sonoma Creek Watershed.	Sonoma Creek Watershed	Ryan Branciforte/ Sonoma Ecology Center
AV	Brought 2 maps of species and communities in coastal range.	Santa Cruz County	Frank Barron/ Co. of Santa Cruz Planning Dept.
AV	Have data on ag. lands by crop type and average return per acre		Don Rey/ CALFED Bay Delta
AV	Has trails data on trails linking neighborhoods to open space & those that serve as wildlife corridors; also has descriptive database of completed trails & trail projects.	Regionwide	Laura Cohen/ Rails to Trail Conservancy
AV	Has data and is interested in sharing it.	Santa Clara County	Greg Bazhaw/ Santa Clara Planning
AV	Has data on county land ownership		Brian Fulfrost, UC Santa Cruz, Environmental Studies GIS lab
С	Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan boundary is incorrect	Contra Costa County	

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